

## **Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Prior to 1978, the area north of Johnson City in the Boone Lake Watershed did not have a centralized sewage system. This area was served by package treatment plants and septic systems. The Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, located off Airport Road in Gray, was placed into service in 1978. This allowed the City to phase out the package treatment plants and provide service to customers with failing septic systems. The original plant was rated at 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and treated sewage from Boones Creek, Cedar Valley, Gray, and the Tri-Cities Airport drainage basins.

With an increasing population and associated wastewater flows along the I-26 corridor, the facility recently was expanded to a 6 MGD extended aeration/activated sludge facility designed to meet stringent effluent limits and provide long-term protection of Boone Lake. The facility is now designed to treat daily wastewater flows of 6 MGD and can hydraulically handle peak flows during wet weather of up to 15 MGD. The Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, serving Washington and parts of Sullivan counties, will further the positive impact on the quality of Boone Lake. The major expansion of this plant, with \$24 million of local funding in construction costs, was completed in spring 2010.

The Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant has consistently met discharge limitations set by federal and state regulators since placing it into service in 1978. The facility received the National Association of Clean Water Agency (NACWA) Gold Award and is also a recipient of the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association Operational Excellence Award. The facility continues to serve the wastewater needs of the community in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.